



Embassy of the United States of America



***Joint Statement to the People of Iraq
by Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker and General David H. Petraeus***

We extend our best wishes to the Iraqi People during Ramadan. We hope that during this holy month of reflection, you and your family find calm and renew your commitment to peace and reconciliation.

In recent weeks, Iraq's extremist enemies have once again displayed their blatant disregard for the teachings of Islam. Tragically, they have chosen the holiest of months to pursue their campaign of terror and intimidation. Nonetheless, although the extremists try to harm Iraqi citizens and their leaders, incite violence, and derail the ongoing process of reconciliation, they are not succeeding. Many of their foreign-born leaders are being killed and captured, and the levels of violence across the country, while still too high, are much lower than they were a year ago.

The progress is due to a number of factors. You and your fellow citizens have demonstrated resolve in the face of challenges posed by Iraq's extremist enemies. The Iraqi Security Forces have courageously prevented many attacks from reaching their intended targets. Increasing numbers of citizens have rejected extremism and demonstrated a desire to help secure their neighborhoods. And many of the followers of Muqtada al-Sadr have observed the ceasefire he ordered in late August.

As Ramadan nears completion, we look forward to the celebrations surrounding Eid al Fitr. During Shawaal and the months beyond, we must maintain the momentum that together we have achieved. We are confident that you and your fellow citizens will continue to display determination, that Iraqi Security Forces will remain vigilant, and that additional Iraqis will join our combined effort. We also sincerely hope that the ceasefire declared by the Sayyid Muqtada will continue to be observed and be further extended to all members of Jaysh al-Mahdi.

Please know that we remain absolutely committed to this effort. In partnership with our Iraqi counterparts, we will strive to provide security and foster reconciliation, and we will work with all Iraqis who reject extremism and violence.

Much work lies ahead of us. Despite the challenges, we can, together, achieve success.

Very respectfully,

Ryan C. Crocker
Ambassador
United States Embassy, Baghdad

David H. Petraeus
General, United States Army
Commanding General
Multi-National Force - Iraq

1 October 2007

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